

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
OES-07 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15
STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 IO-14 L-03 AF-10 ARA-14
EA-12 NEA-10 DOE-11 SOE-02 NRC-07 /183 W
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R 081300Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3900

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03738

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, PORG, IMCO
SUBJECT: IMCO SUBCOMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND EQUIPMENT
18TH SESSION, FEB. 27-MAR. 3

1. SUMMARY: SUBJECT MEETING WAS HELD AT IMCO HEAD-
QUARTERS IN LONDON FROM 27 FEB. THROUGH 3 MAR. 1978.
MAJOR ACTIONS INCLUDED:

(A) REVIEW OF THE DRAFT CODE FOR MOBILE OFFSHORE
DRILLING UNITS (MODU'S) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CHAPTER
VI ON RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS;

(B) REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF THE AD HOC WORKING
GROUP ON NUCLEAR MERCHANT SHIPS;

(C) CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT CODE FOR SPECIAL PUR-
POSE SHIPS AND THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC
WORKING GROUP AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION TO CONSIDER
THESE VESSELS AND THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF OFFSHORE
SUPPLY VESSELS;

(D) CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION OF NOISE AND VIBRATION
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ABOARD SHIP AND DECISION TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC WORKING
GROUP ON NOISE LEVEL ABOARD SHIPS AT THE NINETEENTH
SESSION;

(E) REVIEW OF PROPOSALS FOR DRAFT REQUIREMENTS FOR
SBT BELOW 150 METERS IN LENGTH AND THE DECISION TO
FINALIZE A PROPOSAL FOR GUIDANCE TO GOVERNMENTS AT THE

NINETEENTH SESSION;

(F) CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS REGARDING TONNAGE AND OR OTHER PARAMETERS IN SOLAS 74 AND RESOLUTION A.325(IX) IN LIGHT OF EXPECTED COMING INTO FORCE OF 1969 TONNAGE CONVENTION;

(G) HARMONIZATION OF MACHINERY AND ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS IN VARIOUS IMCO INSTRUMENTS.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE WERE IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAJOR US OBJECTIVES. END SUMMARY.

2. MODU'S: THE AD HOC GROUP CONSIDERED THE AMENDMENTS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON STABILITY, THE CHAPTER FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FIRE PROTECTION, THE INFORMATION FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION, AND OTHER REMAINING COMMENTS ON THE CODE. THE SUBCOMMITTEE TOOK THE ADVICE OF THE WORKING GROUP AND ADOPTED THE CODE WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS. RESERVATIONS WERE NOTED AND THE USDEL RESERVED ITS POSITION ON 4.8, 4.9 AND 4.12.1 IN DE XVIII/5/9. THE RESERVATION ON 4.9 WAS SUPPORTED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE, AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FIRE PROTECTION WAS ASKED TO RECONSIDER ITS PROPOSAL. DIFFICULTY WITH THE USAGE OF COASTAL STATE AND ADMINISTRATION (FLAG) WAS NOTED AND GUIDANCE ASKED OF THE MSC. UNCLASSIFIED

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ONLY THE CHAPTER FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS NEEDS TO BE RECEIVED TO COMPLETE THE CODE. A SMALL EDITING GROUP, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE USDEL, IS REVIEWING THE PRESENT TEXT. ADOPTION OF THE CODE IS STILL ANTICIPATED BY THE ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY.

3. NUCLEAR MERCHANT SHIPS: THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP AND DRAFT COPIES OF VARIOUS CODE CHAPTERS WERE DISTRIBUTED. THE TARGET DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE CODE TO THE ASSEMBLY WAS DISCUSSED, AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE WORKING GROUP WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON TIME SCHEDULE, WITH A FURTHER DECISION ON THIS MATTER TO BE MADE AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION. THE CARRIAGE OF DANGEROUS CARGOES ON NUCLEAR SHIPS WAS DISCUSSED, BUT RESOLUTION WAS POSTPONED. THE SUBJECT OF PORT ENTRY WAS CONSIDERED, AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT SUCH REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE TEXT OF THE CODE OR APPENDED AS AN ANNEX. THE USDEL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SUCH REQUIREMENTS SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY PRECLUDE THE HOST STATE'S TAKING ACTION AS DEEMED NECESSARY. THE SUBCOMMITTEE DECIDED TO REQUEST GUIDANCE

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FROM THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE ON WHETHER THE
DEFINITION OF THE TERM "OWNER" OF A NUCLEAR SHIP SHOULD
BE INCLUDED IN THIS CODE. FINALLY, ARRANGEMENTS FOR AND
SCHEDULING OF INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS OF THE WORKING
GROUP WERE AGREED UPON.

4. SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS AND OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSELS:
WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON SUPPLY VESSELS (US, UK,
USSR, NORWAY) WAS RECOGNIZED. PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE
OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSELS IN CODE FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE
SHIPS WAS TABLED UNTIL THE SUBCOMMITTEE COULD ASSESS THE
DIFFERENCES IN THE PROPOSALS. THE USDEL REITERATED ITS
POSITION THAT THE EXPEDIENCY OF A SINGLE CODE SHOULD NOT
REPLACE CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIQUE PROBLEMS OF DIFFERENT
TYPES OF VESSELS. AT THE NEXT SESSION A WORKING GROUP
WILL BE FORMED TO DEVELOP THE CODE FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE
SHIPS AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHETHER OFFSHORE
SUPPLY VESSELS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THAT DOCUMENT. THE
USSR DELEGATION AGREED TO PREPARE A WORKING DRAFT OF THE
CODE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFSHORE
SUPPLY VESSELS IN SQUARE BRACKETS. THE USDEL PLANS TO
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PARTICIPATE IN THIS WORKING GROUP, AS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF US FLAG VESSELS ARE AFFECTED.

5. NOISE LEVEL ABOARD SHIPS: THE NATIONAL REGULATIONS OF MANY DELEGATIONS ON NOISE LEVEL ABOARD SHIPS (INCLUDING THE US REGULATIONS) WERE INTRODUCED. THE SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSED FUTURE ACTION ON THIS MATTER AND DECIDED THAT A WORKING GROUP ON THIS TOPIC BE FORMED AT THE NEXT SESSION. MANY DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE US DELEGATION, EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING. THE BROAD IMPACT ON OUR MERCHANT FLEET DICTATES OUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION.

6. SBT BELOW 150 METERS IN LENGTH: THE ROMANIAN DELEGATION SUBMITTED A PAPER COMPARING THE RELATIVE MERITS OF THE DRAFT REQUIREMENTS OF MARPOL 73 WITH THE PROPOSAL BY THE UK, THE USSR, AND ROMANIA. THE SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE FINALLY DECIDED AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION, AND RECALLED THAT ANY FORMULA EVENTUALLY PROPOSED BY THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD BE FOR GUIDANCE ONLY. THE USDEL AGREED TO PREPARE A PROPOSAL FOR GUIDANCE OF GOVERNMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION.

7. TONNAGE AND/OR OTHER PARAMETERS: THE MAJORITY OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE LIMIT OF 500 TONS GROSS TONNAGE FOR CARGO SHIPS IN REGULATION 3(A)(II) OF CHAPTER I OF SOLAS 74 WAS SUITABLE ALSO WHEN THE 1969 TONNAGE CONVENTION COMES INTO FORCE. THE MSC WAS INVITED TO ACCEPT THIS DECISION. TONNAGE PARAMETERS IN RESOLUTION A.325 WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION.

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8. HARMONIZATION: THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON MACHINERY AND ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM AND DEVELOPED PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE CHAPTER ON ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE BULK CHEMICAL CODE FOR FINALIZATION AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION

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